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ZRA CORNELL.

An Address to the Students
of Cornell University on
Ezra Cornell Centennial Day,
April twenty-sixth, 1907,

— BY —

NDREW CARNEGIE.

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EZRA CORNELL.

The subject of our address sprang from a sturdy race of Puritans who had been strict Quakers for generations. The union of his parents was blest by eleven children, all of whom reached adult age, and were noted for temperance, industry and frugality,—excellent citizens. The father lived to the advanced age of ninety-one. The mother was a model of all that a noble woman should be, and the children had superb constitutions.

Ezra, our hero, the oldest, was born January 11th, 1807, at Westchester Landing, New York. He soon began to give notice to all concerned that he was no ordinary child. Activity of both body and mind and a consuming thirst for knowledge distinguisht him. The poor village school, supplemented by such instruction as his father could give, was his only University. When only sixteen, Ezra and his brother contracted for the clearing and planting of four acres of land conditioned upon being permitted to attend school during the winter term. His chief passion was for mechanics, and every opportunity to pursue their study was eagerly embraced. Carpentry was learned while working upon a new factory his father was building, and that trade he followed for a time. His graduating thesis was the planning and erection of a new two-story frame dwelling for the family, with no aid but that of his younger brother and ordinary workmen. He was only seventeen but already a master-builder; his triumph was regarded

by the whole country round as nothing less than wonderful. When a lad plays the architect, superintendent and workman combined at seventeen he becomes a marked youth. The eyes of his little world, destined to grow betimes, are already upon him.

Ambition stirred within Ezra Cornell, and at eighteen he set forth to establish himself upon an independent basis. After some trials he finally heard of Ithaca as a promising point because it was connected with the Canal. There he went and, as the whole country knows, Ithaca became his home, and is destined as such to remain famous. Cornell and Ithaca are inseparable. With a few dollars in his pocket he walked from his father's home to Ithaca, forty miles distant—a second Dick Whittington, for Cornell also became the foremost citizen. Without a single introduction or certificate of character, the young man soon made his way. Altho he began as a carpenter, he soon had charge of the cotton factory, and finally of the flouring and plaster mills. His fame as a millwright soon spread and he remained for twelve years in the same position, tho for many of these he was really in charge of the business. There was no restricting of his field possible. His employer, Col. Beebe, soon found that the man who could do many things, and all of them well, had at last come to relieve him. He was especially notable for the saving of labor thru the mechanical substitutes he introduced. A new mill of much greater capacity was his sole work. A strange turn of fortune came in after life when he, the

former employe of Col. Beebe in youth, became his employer in his old age, and in many ways was able to brighten the pathway of his declining years. He never forgot even the humblest of his friends of early days.

In 1831 he married a daughter of one who had been his father's pupil when he taught school in 1808, Mary Ann Wood, and never was marriage happier. Often has Cornell said that his chief blessing in life was his wife, "the best woman that ever lived." Until his marriage he had been a strict Quaker and always identified himself with that sect, being a regular attendant at the Friends' meetings; but there was no organization of that kind at Ithaca, and his wife was not a Quaker. Upon his return to DeRuyter, the society excommunicated him, intimating, however, that if he would apologize for having offended, and express regret for having done so, he would be reinstated. This he decidedly refused to do. No wonder, when we read of the guardian angel of a woman he loved, who lifted him upward with her; he felt, no doubt, as a friend of mine in somewhat similar circumstances, and as I hope each of you young men may be so fortunate as to feel some day about his wife. He was willing to "imperil his immortal soul" for Mary Wood—one of the very best risks I should say, and to be taken at the very lowest rates of insurance, with a rebate at that.

In Cornell's intercourse with his parents and members of the sect, he was careful at all times to use their phrases, and he remained thruout his long life a disciple.

Before Cornell had more than reached his majority he was noted as a wise and public-spirited citizen. The education of the people even then was his first care, and thru his influence a local school was establisht at Fall Creek, which speedily became celebrated.

Nor did national affairs escape the young man's attention. He was an ardent Whig and plunged into the 1840 campaign, in which he was prominent. Later he was a delegate to the convention at Pittsburg, which organized the Republican Party (1856). No doubt I saw his tall figure among the delegates, for even while a telegraph-messenger boy I was a keen free-soiler and ever on the lookout for the celebrated delegates who were then the gods of my idolatry.

Col. Beebe had failed in the panic of 1837 and the mill was converted into a woolen factory. In 1841, trade grew dull in Ithaca. Our hero was forced to look around for a new field, which soon presented itself. He came into contact with the men who were nursing that mysterious infant, the Telegraph, much troubled to know how the stranger from a strange world was to be nursed. It was an uncanny visitor, whose evident connection with occult forces staggered those in whose charge it lay. Cornell was then in his thirty-sixth year, just in his prime.

Always interested in mechanical inventions, he purchased the patent rights, for Maine and Georgia, of an improved plow, and, visiting Maine to introduce it, he made the acquaintance of Mr. F. O. J. Smith, Member of Congress and Editor of the *Maine Farmer*. Their relations became cordial, and in 1843 Cornell

again visited Maine, walking the 160 miles from Ithaca to Albany in four days, from Albany by rail to Boston, thence on foot 100 miles in two and one-half days, and all this so late as 1843. Let us pause here one moment and reflect upon the lightning speed at which the Republic has developed. No parallel exists, and what of the future, when even to-day the pace is, if anything, increased? What are we coming to? Nothing less than to be the giant nation of the earth, all others being pigmies.

Cornell's account of what happened when he called upon his friend Smith is worth recording.

"I found Smith on his knees in the middle of his office floor with a piece of chalk in his hand, the mold-board of a plow lying by his side, and with various chalk-marks on the floor before him. He was earnestly engaged in trying to explain some plan or idea of his own to a plow manufacturer, who stood looking on with his good-natured face enveloped in a broad grin that denoted his skepticism in reference to Smith's plans. On my entrance, Mr. Smith arose and grasping me cordially by the hand, said: 'Cornell, you are the very man I wanted to see. I have been trying to explain to neighbor Robertson, a machine that I want made, but I cannot make him understand it,' and proceeding, he explained that he wanted 'a kind of scraper or machine for digging a ditch, that will leave the dirt deposited on each side, convenient to be used for filling the ditch by means of another machine. It is for laying out telegraph pipe underground. Congress has appropriated $30,000 to

enable Professor Morse to test the practicability of his telegraph on a line between Washington and Baltimore. I have taken the contract to lay the pipe at $100 per mile, and must have some kind of a machine to enable me to do the work at any such price.'

"An examination of a specimen of the pipe to be laid, which Mr. Smith showed us, and a little reflection, convinced me that he did not want two machines, as he said, one to excavate, and the other to fill the trench after the pipe was deposited. I, therefore, with my pencil sketched a rough diagram of a machine that seemed to me adapted to his necessities."

I quote the passage at length to illustrate the genius of Cornell. The invention was a success, and Smith employed the inventor not only to make the machine, but also to lay the pipe.

Here was the beginning of Cornell's connection with the new, marvellous medium of communication, which was to annihilate space and bind all nations together, making the world a neighborhood, members of one body, with all its parts in constant communication.

Two serious difficulties arose. The insulation proved imperfect, and instead of continuing the underground system, Cornell, who had been studying the subject, strongly recommended the wires being put upon poles, and this was agreed to. He now submitted plans for insulating differing from those in use, which were promptly introduced. The

wire was successfully erected and the first message flasht over it, "Behold what God hath wrought." Afterwards the proceedings of the National Democratic convention were instantly flasht to Washington, a proof beyond question of its utility.

We must not fail to note here that but for the mechanical and scientific genius of Cornell, as far as we can judge, Morse and his party would not have succeeded, and we should have had to wait until one of Cornell's stamp had been discovered. In obtaining him for the enterprise Smith saved defeat, not only from the financial, but also from the scientific, mechanical and inventive point of view. A man was needed who knew the laws of science, had the inventor's brain, and who also had, like Watt of the steam-engine, a decidedly mechanical genius.

One would have thought that, having demonstrated the fact that space could be annihilated by the mysterious but obedient messenger, the future field of its operation would be recognized at once as unlimited. Not so; very far from it. After strenuous efforts to attract capital, the owners were compelled to offer the Government the patent for One Hundred Thousand Dollars. The offer was declined, the Postmaster General reporting that "though the invention is an agent vastly superior to any other ever devised by the genius of man, yet in its operation I am not satisfied that under any rate of postage that can be adopted, its revenues can be made to cover its expenses." Mr. Cornell, on the other hand, had become thoroly convinced that the new medium was specially adapted to the needs of

commercial business, and hence that it would prove profitable. He plunged into the work with all his resolute enthusiasm and all his means, including what he could borrow. Where others faltered he drove on, firm of heart and sure he had divined rightly. He built a short line in Boston, demonstrated its success, and occupied the summer of 1844 with the view of raising sufficient capital to build a line between Boston and New York. In this he failed. Still undaunted, he tried New York, and built a line from opposite Trinity Church up Broadway about three miles, but the novelty attracted even less attention than in Boston. The *Herald* opposed it as likely to supersede its special couriers, until the transmission of the Governor's message, two years later (1846), beat its messenger. Small sums from poor people were finally secured, but not one capitalist could be induced to invest. Short lines were built in many parts of the country, and at last men entered upon the Telegraph Age in earnest. Lines were erected in every direction, subscriptions being obtained in the towns and villages connected with them. Chicago, however, proved an exception. Not one dollar was contributed there for the first Western line. Now it pays many thousands of dollars per day for its telegrams.

The chief burden fell upon Cornell, as nothing approaching the needed capital could be obtained in the towns along his great Western line. Here again he displayed in the darkest hour that sublime confidence in his own judgment that amounts to genius. He persevered, investing not only all he had made in

the Eastern lines, which he had built upon profitable contracts, for he was a great manager, but obligating himself deeply beyond. In 1848, his enterprise was completed, Buffalo was connected with Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago and Milwaukee. Then followed his line thru the Southern counties of this State. Later came connection with Pittsburg. Well do I remember that among my first sights upon arriving in Pittsburg from Scotland, just entering my teens, was the erection of telegraph poles thru the town.

From 1848 till 1854 there was bitter competition among the various small short lines. The great West proved the most profitable field. The people of a village there supported an office, which small towns in the East failed to do. Bankruptcy for most seemed imminent when there was formed the first "Trust," I think, in our history, the Western Union Telegraph Company, which embraced most of the smaller companies and, admirably managed as it has been, now covers the whole land. At its head to-day stands General Clowry, President, my fellow ex-Telegraph-Messenger-Boy, whom Cornell knew and often noticed.

Cornell was the most prominent man among the originators of consolidation. He had watched over the new invention in its infancy, supervised it during its growing youth, and conducted it to maturity; was the largest stockholder in the Western Union and one of the few millionaires then known. This was before the new species, the multi-millionaire, had made its appearance. His fortune, immense in those days, exceeded two million dollars, all made out of

nothing but hard work, speculation having no place in it. Cornell money was clean money, the reward of labor.

It is a remarkable fact that this man of unconquerable faith in the invention, never faltering for a moment, made more out of it than all the original owners of the patent combined from their interests in the telegraph companies. He invested all his savings in the one enterprise—put all his eggs in one basket and then watched that basket. He held on to all his stocks, while they lacked faith and were discouraged by the obstacles which only aroused Cornell and gave him the giant's strength.

Even when in want of funds for ordinary expenses he would not sell. Here our hero shines out again as a born leader of men, one among a million, who compels success, "snatching from the nettle danger the flower safety." For all time he ranks as the "Great Pioneer Telegraph Builder."

In 1857, at the age of fifty, finding himself owner of a competence, he determined to distribute some of his surplus for the good of his fellows, and rightly feeling that his beloved Ithaca was entitled to his first benefaction, he decided upon establishing a Free Public Library as the best gift that can be bestowed upon a community. I shall not be expected to disagree with our hero upon that point. Such was the opinion of my father, who was one of the founders of the first library in my native town, and I rejoiced when I read that this object appealed above all others to Cornell. He had to borrow the books he read in his youth, and only such as have had to

do this can fully realize the necessity for and blessings of the Free Public Library. They may be trusted to place it first of all benefactions. To Cornell is to be awarded the credit of being one of the foremost to establish on this wide continent a library free to all the people.

A proof of breadth of view, remarkable in his day, was the appointment as Trustees of the Library, holding title and managing all, of some of his strongest political opponents, and of the ministers of the different churches, Catholic and Protestant alike. Colossus-like, he spanned the narrow gorge of prejudice, political and theological, and set the best men of Ithaca of all parties and all sects co-operating for the public good. Quite common this now, and growing into the general rule as man develops, but in his day it needed the bold pioneer among the horde of smaller men who only follow a leader. Such men marvelled at Cornell's display of such unheard of catholicity. The idea of taxing the community for the maintenance of a library had not then developed. Such would no doubt have been considered decidedly socialistic, for why should property of those who had a library, and did not need one, or who did not want books, be assest for the benefit of those who did want to read books? Much water has run under the bridges since then, and I venture the prediction much more is to run in the same direction. Cornell, therefore, erected a partly-rentable building in which the library was placed. The rents maintained the library. To-day communities gladly furnish sites and tax themselves for

maintenance, so clearly is this seen to be a wise use of public revenues. The world does move, and moves rapidly, impatient tho we often are at its seeming immovability.

In presenting the Library, the giver said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: I have invited you to assemble this evening to witness the consummation of a long-cherished purpose—the establishment of a Public Library in the village of Ithaca, 'the use of which shall be *free* to all residents of the County of Tompkins,' an institution which I trust will be found useful in increasing the knowledge and elevating the moral and religious standard of the people. It may not be deemed improper on an occasion like this, to refer briefly to the history of the progress of the undertaking; the motives which prompted it, controlled the plans of the edifice, and fashioned the organization to which the trust and management of the property will now be committed.

"The conception of the undertaking may be traced to a settled conviction in my mind of the unwise policy, so prevalent in men of large means, of deferring until death their benevolent plans, and committing them, by their last will and testament, to the execution of unwilling heirs, indifferent executors or administrators, or selfish trustees.

"The results of the noble and wise example of Peter Cooper, as contrasted with the equally well-meaning but less successful example of Stephen Girard, led me to decide in favor of the former, and to adopt a policy which might be executed, in part

at least, during my lifetime, thus giving me the opportunity of aiding in the execution of my plans, and enjoying the benefits while living which may flow from them."

Peter Cooper was the first apostle of the "Gospel of Wealth" in this country and perhaps in any country, and Cornell one of his first disciples. It is a cult which, I believe, is sure to grow. More and more are thoughtful men to regard surplus wealth only as a sacred trust to be administered during their lives for the good of their fellows instead of being hoarded.

The Ithaca Library still stands to-day, doing its appointed work, a noble monument to the founder, the best of all monuments, one with a live soul in it working for good.

The love of the farm never forsook Cornell. Consequently, in 1857, Cincinnatus-like, he returned to the plow, purchased a fine farm adjoining Ithaca, and made it a model for the surrounding country. "Forest Park" was the winner of prizes in various lines. He was elected to the Senate of New York. He became President of the County Agricultural Society and finally of the New York State Society, which made him *ex-officio* a Trustee of the New Agricultural College, then located in Seneca County, and thereby hangs a tale. Now we come upon highly interesting matter. Attention, students of Cornell. He found the College sadly inefficient and in want of funds — interesting, tho not surprizing. He proposed to endow it with a fund of three hundred thousand dollars, a prodigious sum

those days, provided it were removed to his beloved Ithaca, and that the State endowed it with one-half the College Land Grant which Congress had granted to all the States for Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, probably the most beneficent and far-reaching act of this character ever past by a Legislature.

He was fortunate to meet, as the State was fortunate to have in the Senate, one whose name is indissolubly linked with his, then a bright, young Professor, with us to-day, your nestor, the Hon. Andrew D. White, first President and still prime favorite of Cornell. They became intimate and labored together as legislators for everything good; but in his agricultural scheme Cornell was opposed vigorously by Mr. White, who insisted that the grant should not be divided, but kept whole to found a University worthy of the State. Next session Cornell became of like opinion, and increased his offer to half a million dollars provided a new institution were establisht, and obtained the whole land grant. After much opposition this was accepted by the State, altho Cornell was required to pay twenty-five thousand dollars to a local college for permission to give his half million. This sum, however, the State subsequently offered to refund, and Cornell asked it to be given to Cornell University, which was done.

As his ideas developed under constant conference with Mr. White, the public became more and more excited, and the introduction of the bill for a charter was the signal for war. The small sectarian colleges were up in arms and sent delegates to

Albany; they also stirred up the press thruout the State. The cries of "Monopoly," "A Grab," "A Swindle," were all played upon, and it was charged that Cornell was only seeking to erect a monument to himself by planning to rob the State. He had once to sit and hear a lawyer, employed to address the Committee against the Bill, intimate that he was a swindler. He whispered to Mr. White, "If I could think of any other way in which half a million dollars would do as much good to the State I should give the legislators no more trouble." Here we have a revelation of the man and his aims. Because it was the good of his State that he had solely in view, he could sit thus patiently under abuse and hear his aims misrepresented. Innocence always has a quiet breast, and the vile charges past by him as idle wind.

The philanthropist triumphed and the bill was finally past. The Trustees held their first meeting here September 5th, 1865. Then came another surprize. The founder not only turned over the half million dollars promised, but also presented free of cost his model farm, which had been selected as the site. Upon this ground we now stand. So grandly was Cornell University ushered forth to take its place among the great educational institutions of the country.

The cry was raised that he intended to establish a Godless University to corrupt the youth of the State. Godless it was to each of the sects in turn, because it welcomed all other sects. Its sin not that it sought to debar any form of religion, but that "it

welcomed all forms," and was friendly to all sects, but the ally of none as against any other. Equal treatment of all was its policy. Sectarian or partisan predominance in the faculty was forbidden. In another advance he had similar prejudices to encounter. Cornell proposed to welcome all studies, including technical and scientific, upon terms of perfect equality. All the existing colleges in the State were then sectarian, and little attention was paid to anything but the Classics and Theology. Students attempting to study other branches of knowledge, even in one or two of the large Universities of the Eastern States, which had feeble scientific and technical schools, were carefully separated from other students, and were not as a rule permitted to study in the same buildings, or to recite on the same benches or before the same professors. Nor did they receive their degrees at the same time or place, and indeed were not considered as graduates at all upon the same footing as those taking the classical or theological course. Think of that, Students and Graduates of Sibley, and remember that among all its other claims upon your gratitude Cornell University was the first in the East to proclaim all the branches of knowledge a republic, all classes of students equal.

A few words may not be amiss here summing up what Cornell stands for.

First. — It was the first Eastern University to give full liberty of choice between studies. Before its day, with two or three exceptions in the West, all University students, without reference to their

aims, tastes or abilities, were required to take mainly one simple, single, cast-iron course. Cornell completely changed this. Large liberty of choice was given, and the result was magical.

Second. — Before Cornell obtained its free charter, with the exception of the State Universities of the West, all in the land were sectarian and denominational. Its charter provided that no professor or officer should be chosen with reference to his religious or political views, and that a majority of the Trustees should never be of any one religious sect. This latter provision may some day create embarrassment, when all Christian sects agree upon just what Christianity is and unite, which seems sure to come sooner or later. This, however, is unlikely to disturb our generation.

Third. — Another claim to our regard is that until Cornell appeared there was a great gulf fixt between the higher institutions of learning and the common school system. Instead of these being combined into one unbroken, ascending path, they were disconnected. Cornell from the very start determined to remedy this disastrous break by pushing its roots down into the school system. It establisht a free four-year scholarship in each Assembly District of the State open to public competitive examination, so that from the beginning there has been a body of young men and women which numbers to-day not less than six hundred, the vast majority coming from the hard-working poor but worthy class, enjoying free University education in any branch desired, and this

not as a charity, but for proven merit. From infant school to Cornell University and thru it, all free as the wind, not one cent to pay. What other land can boast of anything approaching this? What would not a scholar so developed do for such a country?

Fourth. — We come now to another feature of Cornell's unique organization, that of women students. Here again it stood in the van. Its founder in his scheme favored their admission, but it was then thought best not to proceed. In 1872, however, a young lady won the scholarship in her district and made her appearance. She was cordially welcomed. At the opening of the session both founder and President favored co-education, and then came Mr. Sage with his magnificent gift of the splendid Women's College which bears his honored name. There was much searching of heart among the people then about this forward step, but there is none to-day. A brilliant success highly creditable to both sexes, the product a more manly man and a more womanly woman.

Impartial students of other lands and religions have judged that the greatest of Christ's works was his share in the elevation of women. Our country is generally credited with being in advance of others in this respect. Their presence and status here in Cornell and other universities give ground for this opinion.

Having obtained her opportunity, she has revolutionized the Miltonic idea,

> "For valor he and contemplation formed,
> For sweetness she and soft attractive grace,
> He for God only, she for God in him."

We reverse that last line, or rather woman has caused its reversal. In our day, man, and notably the American man, finds in his wife the angel leading him upward, both by precept and example, to higher and holier life, refining and elevating him, making him purer and nobler. It is rather she who stands first for God only, and thru her man now improves. Not a little of her power to influence for good flows from increased knowledge. She is now educated as never before, and not only more of a woman in her womanly qualities, but her mind is of ampler range, making her a wider companion, and hence more of a power. Generally speaking, a man in our day is in very large part what his wife makes him. Our hero of to-day is a case in point, and none knew this so well, and admitted it so freely, as he himself.

Another Cornell idea must not be overlookt. It was first among Universities to admit its graduates to full and effective participation in its government. The Alumni here, both men and women, have a large representation in the Board of Trustees, with excellent results. Cornell is the University of Triumphant Democracy.

Men remembered after death are usually noted for one or more sentences which remain fixt in the memory of their successors. "Don't give up the ship," "Let us have peace," "Government of the people, for the people and by the people," lodge in all our minds. "I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study," stands as the watchword of Ezra Cornell, and must for all

time attach itself to this University. It is engraven upon its seal.

Of all the triumphs of this extraordinary man, we now come, I think, to the greatest. The land scrip distributed among the States was in so many cases thrown immediately upon the market that prices fell to thirty cents per acre. Here stood Cornell with a prophet's faith in the destiny of his country, and apparently seeing more clearly than any man of his time the immediate and irresistible growth of the West. To his vision the Land Grant land was simply being thrown away, thirty cents per acre having been reached, as stated above. Nearly one-fifth of the 990,000 acres had already been disposed of by the State, and this policy he could no longer stand. He promptly volunteered to take over all that remained unsold at thirty cents per acre, thus guaranteeing the State against loss, agreeing to manage it and hand over to Cornell University all the profit. At one time he had over Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars so invested, more than two-thirds of his entire fortune. The Directors of the University were alarmed and urged immediate selling. Friends remonstrated, but Cornell stood firm, the final result being that he made for this University the then enormous sum of more than Five Millions of Dollars profit, which constitutes its chief endowment, and which would never have been secured, but for Cornell standing alone against all others and risking a great part of his fortune. The average amount per acre realized by other States was $1.65. Cornell's average, $5.82, altho the one-

fifth of the whole, sold before Cornell was in position to hold for better prices, brought less than a dollar per acre. To Mr. Sage, who succeeded Mr. Cornell in the management, great credit is due for the total result. His name can never be spoken here without arousing grateful feelings in all our hearts. Business men and methods are sharply criticized in our day, not without reason, but we do well to remember that the man of affairs is essential, and that business ability ranks high in importance when working for some such purpose as Cornell and Sage were in this instance. Not for self-gain was he inspired, but for a noble public need. His gains are still at work here and this stream of benefaction flows for ever. Universities more than most institutions have been favored by the gifts of business men. It dignifies the lives of Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Stanford, Hopkins, Clarke, Brown, Dartmouth, Williams and others to have their wealth transformed into seats of learning. Their very names arouse the enthusiasm of thousands of our leading men who were students in the past, and of thousands of students of to-day, and hundreds of thousands yet to come will cheer them. In this memorable struggle with the Land Grant problem, we note the rare foresight which distinguisht Cornell, the indomitable will and abiding faith in himself against all doubters, and, above all, we feel the throbbing heart which prompted him to greatly dare for the object of his love, his University. If any student of Cornell in a crisis be ever in want of example to inspire him to hold fast and fight on to the end, knowing no such word as

fail, he can find no better in the pages of history than that of the Founder and the Land Grant campaign, fought against the earnest advice and even the remonstrances of his best friends. He stands in history here, recalling Coriolanus' proud boast, "Alone I did it."

Ex-President White judges that the most remarkable of all his traits was his foresight. He was apparently the most sanguine of men in regard to the future of his country. He had faith in her destiny which he saw was to become the mightiest and freest Empire the world had ever dreamed of, a Continent under one flag. Hence his belief that the telegraph would prove profitable, that his railroad projects would prosper, and that the Land Scrip would become valuable as population increased. All his ducks were swans. To make this transformation is an invaluable quality in any man. He knew much better than not to count his chickens until they were hatched. He counted his over and over long before a hen cackled, and was certain that every one he counted, and a few extras were sure to arrive in due season. Philosopher as he was, he knew that even if they never were hatched at all he had thus at least enjoyed the pleasure of the count, which was something to the good. If we do not anticipate many a splendid brood, we may seldom have the pleasure of counting at all. It is good policy to secure the count. Be king always, students, in your dreams. Have faith in your star, as Cornell had. Rejoice in coming triumphs. Count them over often in anticipation. Stand to your guns, certain of

victory at the finish as he was. You cannot find a character more worthy of imitation in every respect, unselfish, courageous, truthful, generous, and reverent man as he was, and altho not quite orthodox in his day, ever mindful of the great truth that "the highest worship of God is service to man."

Ezra Cornell at last saw Cornell University fairly launched, his ideas adopted and bearing good fruit. The next enterprise that attracted him was to bring Ithaca well into the railway system, and into this serious task he launched with his usual enthusiasm and incurred heavy responsibilities, again against the remonstrances of friends, who pleaded with him to take the rest he needed. His reply was that he was good for twenty years yet, like his father, "and would make another million out of the railroads needed for the University endowment." Never was man more completely absorbed in an undertaking than he in his University. It was his first care from the day it began, and, as we see, his last care to the end. Of this we may be well assured, no University bearing the name of man ever received from its founder a tithe of the labor bestowed upon this by Cornell, who contributed not only his fortune, but consecrated himself to it, and just as his great abilities were sorely needed he was prostrated, on June 9th, 1874, by an attack of pneumonia which proved fatal. On December 9th, he breathed his last, in his sixty-seventh year.

The man who knew Cornell longest and most intimately, and co-operated with him from first to last in his great work, our friend ex-President White,

ends his tribute to him in these words: "Cornell was one of the simplest, noblest, truest and most self-sacrificing men I have ever known. Not a selfish thought ever tainted his efforts. I can say of him without reserve, that during all the years I knew him he went about doing good." Where shall we find a nobler epitaph.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Faculty, Students and Alumni of Cornell, let us be grateful that there has come to us the knowledge of such a man, and resolve that this light shall not shine upon us without creating within our breasts the firm resolve to revere the memory, emulate the virtues, and follow as closely as we can the example of one who all his mature life "went about doing good"—Ezra Cornell.